

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BUDGET

ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010

7:45 pm
Aldermanic Chamber

PLEASE BRING YOUR BUDGET AND CIP BOOKS

BUDGET
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
CIP

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#121-10 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY'11 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$340,073,328, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY'11- FY'15 Capital Improvement Program.
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 04/20/10; LAST DATE TO PASS BUDGET 06/4/10

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#376-09 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY11-15 Capital Improvement Program, totaling \$140,377,285 and the FY10 Supplemental Capital budget, which require Board of Aldermen approval to finance new capital projects over the next five years.

All other items will be held without discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chairman

FROM:
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES
FY10 BUDGET

recommendations to the Board of Alderman for possible zoning amendments.

3. Implemented the consistent use of hand held computers to record inspections, field notes, etc.
4. Supplemented inspectors field equipment to provide additional safety equipment.
5. All inspectors have to attend seminars to become familiar with the new 7th Edition of Massachusetts State Building Code for 1 & 2 Family Dwellings.
6. Vault reorganization. Took a team approach to the cleaning, purging and reorganization of the Inspectional Services vault, which eliminated years of debris and antiquated equipment and supplies. Installed new shelving.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Create additional opportunities for education sessions on zoning code issues for all office personnel, therefore allowing more sources of information at the front counter, and thereby improving customer service.
2. Transition to digital data storage for "new" as-built plans, thus eliminating the need to store large quantities of paper building plans.
3. Automate and/or simplify requirements for certain plans/permit submissions. Initiate "short" form.
4. Examine and simplify fee structure for mechanical permits.
5. Examine several sections of the existing city ordinances for minor modifications to allow the city to be more user friendly, such as: temporary signs, sign approvals, drainage requirements, etc.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES FY11 CIP

Other Departments

Vehicle Replacement

The Purchasing Department coordinates the vehicle purchases for all the smaller departments including: Assessing, Engineering, Health, Human Resources, Human Services, Information Technology, Inspectional Services, the Library, Planning, and Public Buildings. Based on the life expectancies, usage, and historic pattern of vehicle replacement, it is expected that the Department will purchase an average of eight vehicles per year. It is the city's policy to replace the vehicles that are in the worst condition each year and to transfer vehicles among and between departments to extend their use. The City currently buys used vehicles at auction.

Flagpole Painting and Repair

Many of the flagpoles in the City need to be repainted.

Photocopier Replacement Program

The Department catalogues, monitors, and replaces photocopiers based on age and annual rate of usage. An inventory of photocopiers and a replacement schedule follow.

OTHER CITY VEHICLE INVENTORY

DEPARTMENT	SEDANS	VANS, WAGONS & PICKUPS	TOTAL
Assessing	6	0	6
Building	4	19	23
Public Works	28	37	65
Health & Human Services	5	0	5
* Inspectional Services	13	2	15
Library	1	1	2
Park and Rec	4	15	19
* Planning	1	0	1
Schools	2	3	5
TOTAL	64	77	141

MODEL YEAR	SEDANS	VANS, WAGONS & PICKUPS	TOTAL
1986	0	1	1
1987	0	1	1
1988	0	1	1
1990	0	2	2
1991	1	1	2
1992	0	1	1
1993	0	1	1
1994	0	2	2
1995	3	2	5
1996	6	2	8
1997	3	0	3
1998	2	0	2
1999	1	0	1
2000	5	9	14
2001	2	5	7
2002	4	10	14
2003	1	14	15
2004	1	2	3
2005	3	7	10
2006	2	3	5
2007	17	4	21
2008	12	5	17
2009	1	4	5
TOTAL	64	77	141

FROM:

PLANNING DEPT. FY10 BUDGET

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Affordable Housing:

- Establish a 12-month work plan for implementing specific action steps in the recently approved Fair Housing Action Plan.
- Meet numerical goals for the commitment and expenditure of CDBG and HOME funds for housing rehabilitation and the development of new affordable units.
- Participate in the *FY11-15 Consolidated Plan* process and facilitate stakeholder focus groups on affordable housing needs and gaps in the community.
- Implement the new City Housing Rehabilitation Program and establish benchmark dates to evaluate progress in meeting goals (e.g. increase the number of households assisted; approach projects in a more comprehensive manner and assist all code-related work that needs to be addressed, etc.).

Community Development:

- Complete the needs assessment for *FY11-FY15 Consolidated Plan* for submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Utilize the \$603,513 the City will receive in additional CDBG funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement portions of the master plans for Pellegrini Park and Stearns Park and to

improve accessibility for people with disabilities throughout the city.

- Manage an estimated 40-50 CDBG-funded human service and Emergency Shelter Grant projects and allocate and manage the \$923,339 in Homelessness Prevention funds the City will receive as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Community Preservation:

Support the efforts of the Community Preservation Committee, Board of Aldermen, funding recipients, and community organizations to:

- Use realistic forecasts of future program funding for program planning (state matching funds are expected to continue to decline, and this year's large unspent balance is not expected to repeat);
- Arrive at a broad consensus on the appropriate balance among fundable resources, and between the acquisition or creation of new resources and the preservation or rehabilitation of existing resources; and
- Integrate the *Community Preservation Plan* with broader capital planning, by prioritizing public resources eligible for CPA funds.

Comprehensive Plan:

- Identify early action items included in the *Newton Comprehensive Plan* and prepare scopes of work for high priority items.
- Complete update of the City's *Recreation and Open Space Plan 2003-07*.
- Complete a citywide Preservation Plan.

Conservation, Floodplains and Wetlands:

- Oversee construction of stone dust path along Crystal Lake at the rear of 230 Lake Avenue linking the City's newly acquired land to the existing Crystal Lake beach and Levingston Cove.
- Install signage at Flowed Meadow conservation area.
- Continue efforts to improve access between Flowed Meadow and adjacent neighborhoods, incorporating the newly acquired upland at 30 Wabasso Street.

Customer Service:

- Implement upgraded Community Plus software allowing for expanded Express Permitting online.
- Continue working to improve front counter service, improve procedures, and update and improve information provided on the department's website.

Economic Development:

- Continue working with BH Normandy Riverside LLC in their efforts to seek a zoning change and special permit for possible redevelopment of the MBTA Riverside (Green Line – "D" Branch) Station site.
- Continue to encourage responsible economic development projects in the City to enhance commercial tax base.

Historic Preservation:

- Continue to work on expanding the City's existing landmark program and inventory of National Register listed properties.

HOME Program:

- Member communities are working on projects that will add 330 new or rehabilitated units, 270 of which are affordable and 42 of which will be HOME-funded.
- Member communities are also projecting 12 homebuyer assistance cases and 5 homeowner rehabilitation assistance cases.

Land Use/Development Review:

- Print and distribute new applications and brochures for Special Permits, Site Plan Review, the R.A.A.P., and signs permits.
- Work with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services to develop a filing checklist and brochure for comprehensive permit applications.
- Continue to work with the Chairman of the Land Use Committee, Board President and other City Departments to streamline the Special Permit process for minor projects.
- Develop "Green Zoning" guidelines for review of major projects.

Newton Farm Commission:

- Continue to assist Commission with the operation of Angino Farm and development of a Master Plan.
- Strive to make the Farm's produce more widely available to the community and increase access to farm education programs.

Telecommunications:

- Maximize use of free cable accounts available to the City by collecting discarded televisions for use in public buildings.
- Work with Public Works Department to finalize selection of a vendor for wireless automated meter reading project and deployment.
- Market and coordinate leasing of public properties to wireless providers to increase City revenues and improve cellular coverage within the City.
- Work with NCAC/NewTV, NNHS, and NTAB to expand educational offerings.
- Investigate and champion (encourage) telecommunications initiatives to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Transportation, Traffic Management and Pedestrian Movement and Safety:

- Continue to work with other City departments and surrounding neighborhood to manage parking needs for Newton North High School throughout construction.
- Participate in Advisory Committee for Regional Pedestrian Plan.

Zoning Ordinance and Map Amendments:

- Continue improving development and zoning mechanisms and facilitate changes to encourage and support development results consistent with the City's stated values pertaining to the character of its neighborhoods and quality of life.

Planning Department Capital Projects

FY11 CIP

CDBG Projects

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, administered through the Planning Department, establishes five year spending plans. These plans are formulated after discussions with residents, community groups, elected officials, and public hearings. The next five year plan is under development.

Conservation Projects

These projects consist of the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of conservation land by improving access and facilities.

Conservation Tree and Pathway Improvements

The proposed improvements include deferred tree work and pathway resurfacing and stabilization in multiple areas including: Norumbega, Kennard, Saw Mill Brook, Webster, Goodard, Christina, Oakdale Woods, Charles River Pathway at Williams St. Stabilization work at Norumbega and Charles River Pathway/Williams St. are needed to make these locations accessible to persons with disabilities.

Pathways are becoming overgrown and trees fall across pathways and into the yards of adjacent private homes. Eroded pathways require resurfacing and/or soils stabilization to return to more safe conditions. Soils stabilization will make Norumbega and Charles River Pathway/Williams St. locations accessible to persons with disabilities. The improvements are necessary to return the conservation areas to a higher level of usability, accessibility and safety.

CONSERVATION LAND

PARCEL NAME	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	ACQ. YEAR
Norumbega Park Conservation Area	13.27	Riverfront, Wooded, Knolls, Open Field, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1976
Webster Conservation Area	103.8	Wooded, Ponds, Rock Outcrops, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1968
Cohen Conservation Area & Annex on Cohen Terrace & Elgin St. parcel	7.59	Wooded, Rock Outcrops	1973
	1.60	Thompsonville Brook	1974
	0.83	Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1975
Houghton Garden Annex to Webster Conservation Area	0.71	Wooded, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1979
Martin Conservation Area	0.57	Wooded, Slope, Rock Ledges	1976
Frank Barney Conservation Area	1.16	Wooded, Slope Rock Ledges	1975
Baldpate Meadow Conservation Area	4.90	Wetlands Restriction Wetland, Wooded Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1974
Kennard Conservation Area	32.28	Wetlands Restriction, Wetland, Wooded, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction, Rock Outcrops	1978
Hunnewell Woods	1.72	Steep Wooded Slope Pathway to Playground	1979
Dolan Pond Conservation Area & 26 Webster Park lot	8.13	Wetlands Restriction, Wetland, Wooded	1979
	0.76	Three Ponds	
Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area (includes Kessler Woods)	31.85	Wooded, Brook, Rock Outcrops, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1979
			1982
			1985

CONSERVATION LAND (continued)

PARCEL NAME	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	ACQ. YEAR
Oakdale Woods Conservation Area	2.47	Wooded, Rock Outcrops Stearns Brook, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1979
Charles River Pathway Conservation Area - Williams St.	1.57	Riverfront, Charles River River, Wooded, Flood	1980
Helen Heyn Riverway - Nahanton St.	30.5	Plain Watershed Restriction	
Varick Hill Conservation Area	0.19	Wooded, Abuts Cochituate Aqueduct	1977
Flowed Meadow Conservation Area	27.04	Vacant, Woods, Field Wetlands Restriction Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1983
Wilson Conservation Area	0.50	Wooded, Abuts Cochitua and Sudbury Aqueducts	1986
Goddard-Christina Conservation Area	4.35	Wetland, Wooded, Wetlands Restriction Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1986
Auburndale Yard Kerry Ct	1.45	Flood Storage Area Buffer Strips	1987
Hahn Brook Conservation Area	4.36	Vacant, Wooded, Wetlan Hahn Brook, Flood Plain Watershed Restriction	1994
30 Wabasso	0.12	Vacant, Wooded	2008
TOTAL ACREAGE	281.8		

CONSERVATION LAND RESTRICTIONS		
PARCEL NAME	ACRES	DESCRIPTION
Nahanton Woods Nahanton Street	20.58	Wetland, Country Club Brook Wetland Restriction
Charles River Pathway Saco St. Upper Falls	1.10	Riverfront, Pathway
Murley Farm/Gables Condo. Dedham St.	9.56	Wooded, Wetland, Pond
Parker Street 7 Parker Street	0.18	Lawn
Pomeroy House Church & Eldridge Streets	0.90	Estate, Lawn
Oak Hill, Ober Road	0.85	Wooded Hillside
Hampton Place 77 Florence Street	2.5	Hahn Brook, Wooded
Jewish Philanthropies Winchester Street	1.00	Wooded Kettle
Winchester Park Winchester Street	12.40	Wooded Wetland
Ledgebrook Nahanton Street	14.00	Open Field, Woods
Jewish Philanthropies Winchester Street	3.00 (est.)	Wooded Upland
360 Boylston St.	0.799	Woods & vernal pool
Hebrew College Herrick Road	1.72	Wooded Hillside
74 Longwood Road	0.25	Wooded hillside adjacent to Hammond Pond
509 Hammond St.	0.5	Wooded hillside adjacent to Hammond Pond
25 Moorfield Road	0.25	Wooded hillside adjacent to Hammond Pond
Lasell Pond		30 yr. Deed restriction
Haskell Street	2.39	Pond, woods, and field
Kessler Woods	1.79	Shrub swamp (in process)
Laura Estates Waban Ave./Irwin Rd.	1.5	Wooded Wetland and Upland
76 Webster Park	0.68	Woods & field (in process)
The Terraces	1.82	Wooded Hillside
180 Elgin St.	1.71	Wooded Wetland
230 Lake Ave.	0.19	Lakefront
TOTAL ACREAGE	79.669	